National War Memorial

584. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the replies to parts (b) and (c) of Unstarred Question 1050 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering to build a National War Memorial; if so, the scheme formulated in this regard;

(b) the dates on which the Ministry of Defence had sent communications to the Ministry of Urban Development for allotting a plot acceptable to defence authorities;

(c) the response of the Ministry of Urban Development; and

(d) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government are considering a proposal to build a National War Memorial at India Gate. The Ministry had sent a proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development on October 17,2001 for allotment of land. While the Ministry of Urban Development was considering the issue of allotment of land for the Memorial, a new concept plan has been prepared by the Ministry of Defence to cause least disturbance to the present lay out of the Central Vista and to blend the design with the architectural style of Lutyen's Delhi.

Soldiers killed during shooting practice

† 585. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers killed during the shooting practice in the country particularly in Bareilly from 1st January, 2000 to 31st October,2004;

(b) what were the causes for their deaths;

(c) whether any compensation was paid to the families of the deceased; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) One soldier, namely, Late Hav. Harpal Singh, 20 Jat, was killed on 2nd October, 2004 during the shooting practice in the period from 1st January, 2000 to 31st October, 2004 in Bareilly.

(b) The Court of Inquiry is under progress. The cause of death will be known only after the completion of the Court of Inquiry.

(c) and (d) Following immediate financial assistance has been provided to the family of the deceased:-

(i) Army Wives Welfare Association Fund	Rs. 5,000/-
(ii) Monetary Assistance from battalion	Rs. 10,000/-
(iii) Regiment Shaheed Parivar Scheme	Rs. 25,000/-

Release of Army Group Insurance and Service Gratuity proceeds are under process and will be paid shortly. Release of Service Pension will be processed on finalisation of the Court of Inquiry.

Replacement of Ageing Air Force and Naval Fleet

586. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy and Air Force need to add to their dwindling fleets;

(b) if so, their demands; and

(c) the action taken to add ships and jets to replace ageing fleets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The review of Force level of Indian Navy and Air Force is an ongoing process keeping in view the prevailing security environment, threat perception, emerging technologies and availability of funds. Steps are taken by the Government to meet any deficiencies to ensure full defence preparedness at all times. A number of new projects have been approved by the Government to modernize the fleets of Indian Navy and Air Force.